mous table covered with papers and ledgers a Jewish girl wearing pince-nez is adding up columns.

"Mademoiselle, this is Monsieur Gide, to whom you will henceforth give the thirty-three per cent discount on all of our books."

He starts to go out, stops, and returns:

"Henceforth you will make the same discount for all those whom we publish."

Then, turning toward me with his crocodile smile:

"Are you happy? . . . Yes? . . . Then so am I. Well, good-by,"

My debt, after this little "protest" is lowered from 102 to 50 francs and my credit raised from 17 to 34 after a recheck.

"She had no inclination to make love; what she liked above all was an interesting conversation." *(Lamiel,* p. 131.)

Out of ten moments of joy Stendhal owes nine to satisfied vanity.

8

January

Why do I limit *Ulmmoraliste*[7] to three hundred copies? . . . To hide from myself as much as possible the bad sale I know I shall have.

If twelve hundred were printed, its sale would seem to me four times as bad; I should suffer four times as much.

Besides, everyone ought to risk a new adventure. I alone can risk this one; everything inclines me toward it; it amuses me; its results will educate me the more because they are unforeseen, and that is the real consideration.

Quietly spent yesterday evening finishing *Lamiel* and meditating. I foresaw that it would be *indispensable* for me to go out. I did not go out, and I am not any the worse off (I even spent a rather good night). Two years ago I should have had to stay out until three in the morning, after having prowled the boulevards from ten o'clock on. I seem wiser; I am older.

10January

Stendhal's need to write. . . . The need that makes me write these notes has nothing spontaneous, nothing irresistible about it. I have never enjoyed *writing rapidly.* That's why I want to force myself to do so.

10p.m.

Alexandre S. met on the boulevards. At nineteen he is hardly any less bpautiful than at fifteen. Yet he has perhaps lost some of that pale-

[7] His tale *The Immordist,* published by the *Mercure de France* in 1902*